

Dedication and Introduction:

Critical Disability Discourse/Discours critiques dans le champ du handicap, Volume 6

Elisabeth Harrison

York University

Author Note

Elisabeth Harrison, Critical Disability Studies Graduate Program, York University.

Correspondence concerning this volume should be addressed to Elisabeth Harrison, Critical Disability Studies Program, Health, Nursing and Environmental Studies Building, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON, Canada M3J1P3. Contact: eaharris@yorku.ca

Citation

Harrison, E. (2014). Dedication and introduction: Critical Disability Discourse/Discours critiques dans le champ du handicap, Volume 6. *Critical Disability Discourse/Discours critiques dans le champ du handicap* 6, 1–6.

Dedication



Peter Mackey, 1980-2014

This issue of Critical Disability Discourse/Discours critiques dans le champ du handicap is dedicated to the memory of Peter Mackey, a talented scholar and a wonderful friend. As a PhD student in the Critical Disability Studies program at York University, Peter promoted a spirit of collegiality and support among students. He is missed and remembered by his parents, Barb and Jim Mackey of Newfoundland, and his many friends.

Editorial Board, Reviewers, Translator and Copy Editors

Managerial Editor

Elisabeth Harrison

Editors

Catherine Duchastel
 Maria Guadagnoli-Closs
 Elisabeth Harrison
 Estee Klar
 Susan Macri
 Maria Monaco
 Laurence Parent
 Simmy Sahdra
 Hilda Smith
 Robert Walker

Translator

Catherine Duchastel

Reviewers

Susan Barak
 Alfiya Battalova
 Jaime Roman Brenes Reyes
 Madeline Burghardt
 Natalia Davidson-Smith
 Yahya El-Lahib
 Haley Gienow-McConnell
 Yanekah Jacobs
 Sheila Jennings
 Leah Keating
 Nancy LaMonica
 Bridget Liang
 Sylvia Mac
 Tracy Mack
 Hilary Martin
 Erica Nagy
 Amber Reid
 Natalie Spagnuolo
 Judy Versegby
 Jessica Vorstermans
 Samantha Walsh

Copy Editors

Melanie L. Fallis
 Elisabeth Harrison

Introduction

Welcome to Volume 6 of *Critical Disability Discourse/Discours critiques dans le champ du handicap*. We are very happy to present four important contributions to the field of critical disability studies from students from Canada and the United States. We are also pleased to introduce a reviews section, featuring graduate student perspectives on recent literature in critical disability studies.

Overview

The four articles we present in this volume present critical perspectives on a variety of crucial and often underrepresented issues relevant to critical disability studies.

In the first article, *The Mad and the Bad: The Lethal Use of Force against Mad People by Toronto Police*, Tracy Mack collects the stories of the murders by police of mad people in Toronto. Mack's analysis focuses on the intersections of racism and ableism in violent police interactions with racialized mad people. She shows that the lack of truly independent oversight of the Toronto police force has prevented changes that might hold police accountable for their actions and protect racialized and mad people.

The second article, *Colonialism and the Rupturing of Indigenous Worldviews of Impairment and Relational Interdependence: A Beginning Dialogue towards Reclamation and Social Transformation*, is by Heather Norris. Norris discusses Indigenous perspectives of disability, noting that while impairment was present within Indigenous communities prior to colonization, it was never accompanied by cultural ideologies of lack and deficiency. Instead, Indigenous communities understood all diverse beings as interdependent, making it impossible to construct a hierarchical dichotomy between those with impairments and those without. Norris argues that the understanding of impairment as a negative, individual property causing disablement is rooted in a colonialist worldview, and serves to support the practices of categorization and exclusion that undergird the neocolonial state.

In the third article, *Public Choices: An Examination of Policy Statements about Prenatal Testing*, Anjali Truitt analyses the use of the language of choice by the disability community and the medical community in framing prenatal genetic testing. Truitt argues that policy statements represent an important opportunity for cross-disability coalitions to engage with those seeking

information about prenatal genetic testing, and educate the general public about “disability as valued diversity.”

The final article is *Condoms and Contradictions: Assessing Sexual Health Knowledge in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Queer Youth Labelled with Intellectual Disabilities*, by Ciann Larose Wilson, Zack Marshall, Sarah Flicker, Alex McClelland, Tess Vo, Denise Nepveux, Devon Proudfoot, Stephanie Nixon and Trevor Hart. In it, Wilson and her coauthors describe the results of a study they undertook with LGBTQ youth to assess their sexual health knowledge and decision making skills. They found that a multi-faceted approach using interviews, arts-based approaches, and visual card sorting enabled them to develop a very nuanced picture of participants’ sexual knowledge and practices.

Our reviews span a variety of disability-related literature. Catherine Duchastel reviews *Acts of Conspicuous Compassion: Performance Culture and American Charity Practices* by Sheila C. Moeschen; Simmy Sahdra reviews *Disability and Difference in Global Contexts: Enabling a Transformative Body Politic* by Nirmala Erevelles; Hilda Smith reviews *Critical Perspectives on Addiction (Advances in Medical Sociology, Volume 14)*, edited by Julie Netherland; and Judy Verseghe reviews *Saving Normal: An Insider’s Revolt against Out-of-control Psychiatric Diagnoses, DSM-5, Big Pharma, and the Medicalization of Ordinary Life* by Allen Frances.

Acknowledgements

I would like to sincerely thank the authors of the reviews and articles for their exceptional contributions to this volume. I would also like to thank everyone who contributed manuscripts for consideration. We received a large number of very good contributions, and although we were

only able to publish a small selection of the work we received, the enthusiasm of the response to our call for submissions demonstrates the vibrancy of student engagement within the field of critical disability studies. I would also like to thank our wonderful volunteer editors and reviewers, whose extremely hard work has culminated in this excellent volume. I would also like to thank Christina Williams, who granted us permission to reprint her photograph of Peter Mackey. Finally, I would like to those who have helped promote our journal to their colleagues and students, and, of course, the readers of *Critical Disability Discourse/Discours critiques dans le champ du handicap*.